



## MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

### STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on June 15, 2016 at the Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Martha Harris; Vice Chair Peter Geiger; John Bird; Nichi Farnham; Wilson Hess; Jana Lapoint; Heidi Sampson; Jane Sexton; Noa Sreden; and Elise McKendry.

Excused: Ande Smith

Also present were: Scott Brown, Director of School Construction Programs; Ann Pinnette, Facilities, Safety and Transportation Coordinator; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate, State Board of Education.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair Martha Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Read by student member, Noa Sreden: The Vision of the State Board is to ensure Maine public school students graduate with the skills, knowledge, and principles to be responsible American citizens; self-directed and dedicated to making contributions to society by pursuing further education and employment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOVED by John Bird, seconded by Nichi Farnham, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the May 11, 2016 minutes as written.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### ***Construction Committee (Peter Geiger):***

The Construction Committee met on June 3, 2016 as scheduled.

The Committee discussed the Federal Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program (QZAB) Awards – Interest free bonds to schools with at least 35% free and reduced lunch population. Three school units met the qualifications and two will receive bonds.

Revolving Funds – A new cycle opens on July 1, 2016 and awards are made February 1, 2017. Funds are for health and safety and building system improvement projects in the school.

The Committee met Valerie Chang who recently joined the construction staff. Valerie is an architect by trade and previously worked for the Bureau of General Service (BGS).

She is a great addition.

Scott and his team will be looking at moveable equipment guidelines. They are reviewing other states and will be making suggestions. Currently, nine percent of a project establishes the budget for moveable equipment. They are looking at what might count as moveable and come back to the Committee.

The next Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 3, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 500 of the Cross State Office Building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Certification and Higher Education (Nichi Farnham):***

The Certification and Higher Education Committee did not meet on June 22, 2016, as scheduled.

The next Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

***Career and Technical Education (Heidi Sampson):***

The Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) met on June 2, 2016, as scheduled. CTE Committee Discussed the Following:

- Professional Development Opportunities
  - CTE Leaders Academy and/or Intensive Technical Assistance – Career Pathways System Development
- FY 17 School Reviews
  - Dexter needs facilities report
  - Rockland needs facilities report and approval of the last program
  - Waterville needs facilities report
  - Farmington draft review is needed
- CTE Needs
  - CTE is looking to convene a business and industry advisory board and will want someone from the CTE Committee (SBE member) to serve on the board.
- Business Programs Update
  - The Committee discussed the issues with business programs.
- A teacher attended the meeting and talked about a day and life in a CTE class.

The next CTE Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2016. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office building. The approved minutes will be posted on the State Board website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**FEDERAL QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BOND PROGRAM**

**STATEMENT OF FACT:** The Department of Education coordinates the Federal Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program. QZABs are bonds issued by state or local governments which the Federal government subsidizes by providing tax credits to bondholders. Maine has QZAB allocations from 2015 and 2016 totaling \$2,898,000 available for distribution to school units.

Three school administrative units submitted QZAB applications to the Department requesting bonding authority and the Department has completed its review of the applications. The applicants certified that they will meet the Federal requirements of the QZAB program including having a 35% free and reduced lunch rate at the school, receiving a private contribution worth 10% of the bond proceeds, and using bond proceeds for rehabilitation or repair of school buildings, purchasing equipment, developing course materials, and/or training teachers and other school personnel. The applications were reviewed and prioritized based on previous issuance of QZABs by the school unit, financial and demonstrated need for the proposed use of funds, and the proposal's impact on students.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION: The Construction Committee considered this exhibit at its June 3, 2016 meeting and voted to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 41/MSAD 41 and RSU 13 and authorize issuance of QZABs for up to the amounts shown on the accompanying list "2016 QZAB Recommended Approvals."

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 41/MSAD 41 and RSU 13 and authorize issuance of QZABs for up to the amounts shown on the accompanying list "2016 QZAB Recommended Approvals." The total QZAB authorization amount is \$2,898,000.

MOVED by Peter Geiger, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the QZAB applications for projects in RSU 41/MSAD 41 and RSU 13 and authorize issuance of QZABs for up to the amounts shown on the accompanying list "2016 QZAB Recommended Approvals." The total QZAB authorization amount is \$2,898,000.

#### APPROVAL OF SCORE 155 FOR THE TEST TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

This item (exhibit VI.A.) was removed from the agenda and will come before the Board at the July 13, 2016 meeting.

#### STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION – APPROVAL OF JAMES RIER FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION

MOVED by Jane Sexton, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the appointment of James Rier to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission.

#### STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION – APPROVAL OF NICHIE FARNHAM, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER, FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted six in favor with one member abstained (Nichie Farnham) to approve the reappointment of Nichie Farnham to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission.

#### STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION – APPROVAL OF MICHAEL WILHELM FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION

MOVED by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Peter Geiger, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the reappointment of Michael Wilhelm to serve on the State Public Charter School Commission.

#### ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS (Chair and Vice Chair for the year 2016-2017)

Presented by Peter Geiger, Nominating Committee Chair: A slate of officers were submitted at the May 11, 2016 Board meeting. Martha Harris was nominated for re-election of Chair and Jana Lapoint was nominated for election of Vice Chair for the 2016-2017 Year.

Moved by Peter Geiger, seconded by John Bird and unanimously voted by those present to re-elect Martha Harris as Chair and elect Jana Lapoint as Vice Chair for the term of one year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into executive session at 1:30 PM with voting members only in attendance. The Board returned to the regular business meeting at 2:32 PM.

#### **STUDENT TRANSFER APPEALS:**

MOTION by Nichi Farnham, seconded by John Bird, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wilson Hess and Heidi Sampson) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of RJ. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wilson Hess and Heidi Sampson) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of BB. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of NR. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by John Bird, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of HM/JS. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Heidi Sampson, seconded by Jane Sexton, and voted six in favor with two members opposed (Wilson Hess and Heidi Sampson) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of AFG. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by John Bird, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of KO. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of MG. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (Heidi Sampson) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of CS/ES. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Martha Harris, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of SA. The transfer is denied.

MOTION by Peter Geiger, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and voted seven in favor with one member opposed (Heidi Sampson) to uphold the Deputy Commissioner's decision on the transfer of HM. The transfer is denied.

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

#### **Chair, Martha Harris**

- She and Jana Lapoint attended Gwen's graduation at Nokomis High School.
- She attended the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Dinner and gave a congratulations speech on behalf of the State Board.
- On June 3, she attended the Construction Committee meeting and the Agenda Review meeting by phone.
- She has done a lot of work on her local school board and attended her last meeting on June 9, after serving 21 years on the Board. She was presented with a nice plaque.
- She attended the 2016 Maine County Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Hall of Flags on May 13.

#### **Vice Chair, Peter Geiger**

- On May 13, he joined Deputy Commissioner Beardsley and Martha Harris at the Hall of Flags Ceremony honoring the 2016 Maine County Teachers of the Year (MCTOY). Deputy Commissioner Beardsley did a great job addressing the educators and it was a well-attended celebration. From this group will come eight candidates for the Maine Teacher of the Year (MTOY).
- On May 17, he attended the Lewiston Regional Technical Center National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) inductees function held at the Green Ladle in Lewiston. Dr. Don Canaan was the keynote speaker and 150 students received their first or second year pins. Seniors received a sash to wear during graduation.
- On June 3, he attended the Construction Committee Meeting, Agenda Review Meeting and the MTOY review panel meeting.
- On June 7, he attended Lewiston High School Scholarship Night and gave out four (4) \$2,000 and two (2) \$1500 scholarships to graduates who attended Montello Elementary School. Students receiving financial help are attending Bates, Bryn Mawr, Salve Regina, St. Josephs' of Maine Husson University and the New England Culinary Arts Institute. This is the third year for this fund with \$11,000 being dispersed.
- On June 10, he attended Lewiston High School graduation. The districts held their first ever Senior Walk. It is optional but 110 students were bused from the high school to their elementary school and walked the hallways in caps and gowns. At first it looked like a wonderful way to inspire the smaller children but in the end, the benefit was as much for teachers who could reconnect with their former students – a very powerful experience for all.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

### **Noa Sreden:**

- On June 2, she called into the CTE Committee meeting.
- She had her NHS Induction Ceremony and she is President of the NHS Chapter.
- The first Pilot Leadership Day was held at Woolwich Elementary School.
- Her last day of school was June 14.
- She took the SAT's again on June 11.
- She was elected Class Vice President.
- Her final lacrosse game is on June 15.
- Her school had their awards night two weeks ago and she received a Smith College Book - Five Kappa Delta Honor Society Award and an AP Language and Composition Award.
- She went to Philadelphia for her lacrosse tournament.
- She made the Academic All American team. There are eight students in the State of Maine to make the team.

### **Jane Sexton:**

- She attended the University of Southern Maine graduation ceremony. George Mitchell gave a great address.
- Manchester Elementary promoted their 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to middle school and every child (22) received an award from the teacher with positive reinforcement.
- She has been to some of the Gorham Boys lacrosse team games and they are playing South Portland tonight.

### **Jana Lapoint:**

- She has attended several graduations.
- She has been busy with Charter Commission work.

### **Wilson Hess:**

- On April 28, he conducted a workshop for the University System Boards of Trustees on planning governance for the Universities.
- He traveled to the Central Pacific. He met with the Secretary of Education. He went to Germany to visit with a former exchange student and it was a wonderful connection.
- He attended the CTE Committee meeting on June 2.
- On June 2, he met with the Chancellor of the University of Maine System in Bangor to talk about dual enrollment strategy.
- He will be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute on July 22 and 23 in Arlington, VA.

### **Nichi Farnham:**

- On May 26, she served as the Board Observer for the Endicott Maine Educator Consortium Degree Granting Review which was held in Augusta.
- On June 10, she attended the High School Graduation at Narraguagus as a Liaison Officer for the Airforce Academy.

### **Heidi Sampson:**

- On May 20, her Government Civics Course students held five to seven minute presentations for Governor LePage. Two of her students also debated Deputy Commissioner Beardsley.
- On June 2, she attended and chaired the CTE Committee meeting.

- She will be attending the Commissioner's Conference for Superintendent's later this month at the Cross Center in Bangor.

**John Bird:**

- He will be attending the Commissioner's Conference for Superintendents being held in Bangor on June 26 to 28.
- He will be attending the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute on July 22 and 23 in Arlington, VA.
- He loves to sing and is a part of three chorus groups. He was just in a concert with a 140 member chorus called the Midcoast Community Chorus. On July 3 and 4 and 8 and 9, he will be in the production of the "Music Man" singing the lead in the quartet. His church choir will be holding an event on July 4.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Submit travel and expense account vouchers to Mary at the end of this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOVED by Nichi Farnham, seconded by Heidi Sampson, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the June 15, 2016 State Board of Education meeting at 2:55 PM.